provided to encourage powerloom exports. In the new quota policy for 2000—2004, the PEE quota has been raised from 10% to 15%.

Mitigating the hardship of powerloom owners and weavers

1152. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from the Textiles Manufacturers Association regarding the state of severe indebtedness of the powerloom weavers and owners, and the pressure tactics adopted by the cooperative and other banks to realize the debt instead of proceeding through cooperative courts;

(b) if so, whether in view of acute recession both in the domestic and the world market the weavers and owners are driven to commit suicides under pressure from the banks and what were the demands of the associations; and

(c) Government's response to help to mitigate the hardship of the powerloom owners and the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Representations from the Textiles Manufacturers Associations and powerloom weavers and unit holders are being received from time to time highlighting their various problems, which include indebtedness of weavers; obsolete technology of looms, leading to low quality and low productivities; difficulties in accessing credit; fluctuating prices of yarn, etc. These difficulties have been accentuated by the recessionary trends in the economy.

(c) Government has taken several initiatives to tackle these issues and facilitate growth of the decentralised powerloom industry to become competitive and face the global challenge. Some of these include:

(i) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi automatic and automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced. Incentives are available

under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme where the powerloom owner can either avail 12% upfront Capital Linked Subsidy or reduce cost of borrowing the capital by interest reimbursement of 5%.

(ii) Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs), established to provide services, such as designs, training, skill upgradation and the testing facilities to the powerloom weavers, are being modernized and upgraded so that they can provide training and technical support to powerloom weavers;

(iii) Computer Aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centres are being established to provide value addition through design inputs into powerloom production.

(iv) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports. In the new quota policy for 2000—2004, the PEE quota has been raised from 10% to 15%.

Spinning mills closed due to strike in Tamil Nadu

1153. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several spinning mills in Tamil Nadu are lying closed due to strike;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to end the strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) There are a total of 826 cotton man-made fibre textile spinning mills (non-SSI) in the State of Tamil Nadu. Out of which, the following spinning mills are lying closed on account of strike and labour problems:

S. No.	Name of Spinning Mill	Date of Closure	Workers on roll
1	2	3	4
1.	Shree Janardhana Mills Ltd.	04-10-98	400
2.	Ganga Textiles Limited	20-10-97	70
3.	Tamil Nadu Spg. Mills Ltd.	01-2-95	49